

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 225620  
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY:AF/W:TWMSMITH

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-----129645 071209Z /47

R 061755Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ACCRA 7177 SENT ACTION STATE 31 AUG.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 7177

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ECIN, GH, XA

SUBJ: HEAD OF STATE AKUFFO CALLS FOR INCREASED REGIONAL  
COOPERATION TOWARDS ECOWAS

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1. SUMMARY: HEAD OF STATE CALLS ON WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES  
TO INCREASE BILATERAL RELATIONS TO FACILITATE REGIONAL  
COOPERATION AS GHANA/BENIN TALKS END. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAD OF STATE AKUFFO SAID IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT  
AUGUST 25 THAT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED TALKS BETWEEN GHANA

AND BENIN IN ACCRA HAD RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF SATISFACTORY AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD FORGE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THESE TWO MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES.

3. BENIN WAS REPRESENTED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION COMRADE MICHAEL ALLADAYE. GENERAL AKUFFO RECEIVED ALLADAYE AUGUST 25 AND TERMED THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GHANA AND BENIN A "SHINING EXAMPLE TO THE COUNTRIES IN THE SUBREGION". HE CALLED ON WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO EXTEND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER SO AS TO FACILITATE COOPERATION TOWARDS HASTENED DEVELOPMENT OF ECOWAS.

4. POLOFF DISCUSSED BENIN TALKS WITH GORDON CUDJOE, MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR OAU AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS. CUDJOE CONSIDERS AGREEMENTS WITH BENIN MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN ONGOING GHANAIAAN EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH EIGHT WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. BENIN IS FIRST. OTHER IN PROCESS ARE IVORY COAST, TOGO, UPPER VOLTA, ZAIRE, GUINEA, MALI AND NIGER. IN ADDITION TO FREE VISA ENTRY, OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION INCLUDE LEGAL COOPERATION, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES. CUDJOE SAID GHANA CONSIDERS THIS MAJOR STEP TOWARDS INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ECOWAS.

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5. COMMENT: THESE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS WELL AS AKUFFO STATEMENTS REPRESENT WHAT APPEAR TO BE AN INCREASED EFFORT ON PART OF GHANA TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL TIES ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY.

6. DEPT. PLEASE PASS ECOWAS COUNTRIES. HOLMES  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014